## **PARTNERSHIPS**

## **JOINT VENTURES**

<ul> <li>Casual Agreement</li> <li>Even casual agreements can be in writing</li> <li>Library director or staff person can make the partnership commitment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Written Agreement</li> <li>Agreement is legally binding</li> <li>Agreement requires an agreed-upon budget &amp; layers of review &amp; approval beyond the library director</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Short-term</li> <li>Partnership is usually activity-, event- or project-based</li> <li>Partnership usually has a single objective</li> <li>Relationship has a finite time line with no promise of continuation</li> </ul>	Long-term  • Joint Venture agreement provides for review, evaluation & change  • Joint Venture usually has major goal & many objectives
Sometimes share resources <ul> <li>Library sometimes gives more than it gets</li> <li>Partners usually provide in-kind resources</li> </ul>	Shared resources necessary
Sometimes share outcomes  • Library is often more focused on outcomes than the partner	Shared outcomes necessary  Outcomes & results are equally valued by each partner
Sometimes share goals  • Partners may share beliefs or an objective	Shared goals necessary  • Partners have a common vision, mission and share well-defined goals & objectives
Library bears risks and burdens  • Partnership has limited risks & exposure	Shared risks and burdens  • Agreement clearly defines liability for both partners
Mutual benefits not necessary  • Partnership success is usually library-focused	Mutually beneficial  • Joint Venture success is based on shared decision-making, planning & outcomes
Accomplish library objectives  • Because partnership is library-driven  • Partnership is neither symbiotic nor sustainable	Accomplish something neither partner can do alone     Because of costs, magnitude of the problem, lack of knowledge, amorphous nature of the issue, or the need to involve a large number of people     Joint Venture creates new entity based on a symbiotic, sustainable relationship
Library leads partnering effort  • No "give & take" required	Library may have to lead, follow or "get out of the way"  • Partners are equal; no one partner is in control  • "Give & take" is necessary for the venture to evolve; library may have to defer in areas beyond their expertise

Source: Shelly Keller; Patty Wong and Claudia Kane; Joint Ventures Workshops

## **PARTNERSHIPS** (cont.) **JOINT VENTURES (cont.)** Exclusive relationship Not exclusive relationship • Commitment is not necessarily on-going Requires total commitment of each partner • Library can probably get what it needs from Agreement may contain a "no compete" clause several potential partners Library driven Partner driven • Library can focus exclusively on its own needs Requires equal participation by each partner on all Partners no necessarily equal Partners are equal (valued) Partners aren't necessarily "equals" & this has Each partner's role is clearly defined no consequences Partners view each other as equals Partners may or may not have input Partners have equal input Library determines how much input partner can Partners work together to develop agreed upon have Partners share responsibility for intellectual contribution Some trust, accountability, responsibility, commitment High level of trust, accountability, responsibility, commitment • Potential partners view library as trustworthy; no need for library to "earn" partner's trust Partners work to develop, nurture & maintain trust • Requires responsibility & commitment but not Both partners highly value accountability, accountability responsibility & commitment Don't need to have an established relationship Need to have an established relationship Library can partner with strangers because of its Relationship has been cultivated over time perceived value in the community Joint Venture is based on common values & shared experience Partners know each other, like each other & are

motivated & committed to work together

Source: Shelly Keller; Patty Wong and Claudia Kane; Joint Ventures Workshops